

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) applauded President Obama's commitment to developing high-speed rail lines to connect America's cities and spur economic development.

"We've been fighting hard for high-speed rail and I am pleased that the President has recognized the need for high-speed rail to bring economic growth and development to Upstate New York," Arcuri said. "I will continue to work with President Obama and colleagues on both sides of the aisle to bring federal funding to Upstate New York to invest in transportation infrastructure worthy of our potential as a region."

Earlier today, President Obama released a strategic plan outlining his vision for high-speed rail in America. The plan identifies \$8 billion provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the Recovery Bill), which Arcuri voted for, and \$1 billion a year for five years requested in the federal budget as a down payment to jump-start a passenger rail system. The strategic plan will be followed by detailed guidance for state and local applicants seeking these funds. By late summer, the Federal Railroad Administration will begin awarding the first round of grants.

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